

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-217-WS - ORDER NO. 2010-357

MAY 6, 2010

IN RE: Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc.)	ORDER APPROVING OF
(USSC) – Application for)	INCREASE IN BULK
Adjustments of Rates and Charges and)	WATER PROVIDER
Modifications to Certain Terms and)	RATES
Conditions for the Provision)	
of Water and Sewer Services)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request by Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc. (“USSC”) for approval of an increase in water rates for the Calhoun Acres water system to reflect the 5% increase in the bulk water charges by the Sandy Springs Water District, which went into effect January 1, 2010. This order memorializes our directive of March 10, 2010.

It appears that Sandy Springs Water District is providing advance notice to Utilities, Inc., the parent of USSC, when Sandy Springs Water District increases its bulk water charge, but is not providing advance notice directly to USSC. Also, it appears that Utilities, Inc. is not providing timely notice to USSC after Utilities, Inc. receives notice of the increase in bulk water charges. This Commission has no authority to require that Sandy Springs Water District provide advance notice to USSC before raising its bulk water charge. However, the USSC customers should not suffer because of a lack of communication between USSC and its parent, Utilities, Inc. Therefore, we hold that USSC may pass through the increased bulk water charge in its next customer billing with

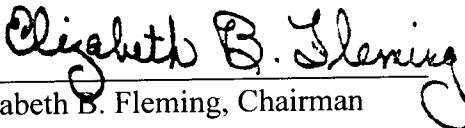
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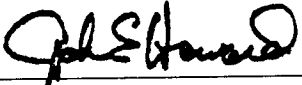
a bill insert explaining the increased charge. If USSC has already billed a customer for the increased bulk water charge, it must refund the associated bill increase to the customer. Further, consistent with a request from ORS, we hold that USSC shall be required to document a process by which increases in bulk water charges are communicated internally such that the Company can comply with Order No. 2006-22.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Elizabeth B. Fleming, Chairman

ATTEST:


John E. Howard, Vice Chairman
(SEAL)